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**United States Senate**  
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6075

June 19, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

As you consider applications for the Sec. 5339 "Buses and Bus Facilities" program for Fiscal Year 2019, I would like to bring the application from the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) from Franklin County, Ohio to your attention.

COTA serves the Greater Columbus region as the premier provider of public transportation, providing nearly 19 million trips annually. COTA aims to acquire a sufficient number of new buses each year to ensure that older bus are replaced when they meets the end of their useful service life. As Central Ohio grows by a rate of more than 100 new residents daily, there is also growing need for means of transportation that reduce or eliminate harmful emissions.

COTA has requested \$2.89 million to purchase up to 11 battery electric 40-foot transit buses and install essential charging infrastructure. COTA and its partners, including the city of New Albany, propose a 79 percent local match of \$11.1 million for the project.

COTA began transitioning to low emission transportation in 2013, and battery electric buses are the next step towards sustainable, safe, and efficient transportation for Central Ohio. The agency will use the Sec. 5339 grant to install electric bus chargers as a part of the comprehensive renovation from diesel bus facilities to low and no emission facilities. I support COTA's efforts to integrate battery electric buses into their ongoing fleet replacement efforts. COTA will be a leader in the demonstration of large-scale adoption of zero-emission bus technology.

I strongly urge the Department of Transportation to give this application full and fair consideration and ask that you please keep my office informed on the status of the is application. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
Ranking Member